27051 houses in 52 re-located villages. In 23 villages the work has been completed and the houses handed over to the beneficiaries. Government of Uttar Pradesh have provided financial assistance to all the 65672 families whose houses were damaged in the wake of the Uttarkashi earthquake of October 1991.

Training policy regarding forest management

1382. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals and locals living in forest are consulted in training policy regarding forest management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take measurs to consult inhabitants of forest whenver any policy is to be formulated which affects lives of tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) In pursuance of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India have issued guidelines to all State/Union Territory Governments on 1st June, 1990 for involvement of tribals and local people in protection and management of degraded forests.

(b) So far 16 State Governments have adopted resoultions for participatory forest management.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that having regard to the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests, the primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management should be to associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests.

Criteria for Construction of Zonal Railway users Consultative Committees

1383. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for the constitution of Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees;

(b) whether it is a fact that due representation is not goven to the Members of Parliament of the area on these committees; and

(c) if so, the reasosn therefor and the manner in which Government propose to remove this lacuna particularly in the case of Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) To secure better representation of Railway Users and provide a forum for frequent interaction between Railways and Railway Users on matters relating to the services provided by Railways, Railway Users' Consultative Committees at Zonal levels are formed. In these Committees, represntation is given local Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Trade Associations, Passenger Associations, Agricultural Interest, Consumer Forums, Representatives of State Government, State Legislatures, Members of Parliament etc. In addition, some members are also nominated by the Minister of Railways under the Category of 'special interest' to represent the interest of those users who have not been otherwise given representation. In the Zonal Raolway Users Consultative Committee, nomination of 3 Members of Parliament (Two from the Lok Sabha and one frrm the Rajya Sabha) are made by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. As a matter of practice and policy, Members of Parliament hailing from the territorial jurisdiction of each of the zone are selected by that Ministry for nomination on Zonal Railway Users Consultaive Committee and due representation was given to the